

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 are pending in the present application. Claim 2 has been amended merely to correct spelling and to improve form. Claims 4-5 have been canceled.

Also by this Preliminary Amendment, the abstract and the specification have been revised to identify the parent application.

Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment to claim 2 has been made merely to correct minor informalities, not to distinguish the claim over any prior art. Accordingly, the amendment to claim 2 should not be construed as narrowing scope within the meaning of *Festo*.

Favorable consideration and early allowance of the present application are earnestly solicited.

In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, please contact Andrew J. Telesz, Jr. (Reg. No. 33,581) at (703) 715-0870 in the Washington, D.C. area, to discuss these matters.

Serial No. NEW

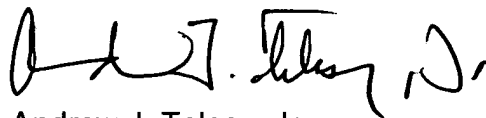
OKI.217D

Preliminary Amendment dated July 24, 2003

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0238 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

VOLENTINE FRANCOS, P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. J. Telesz, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andrew J. Telesz, Jr.

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